

The High School View

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Women of MV Club gets to work on women's issues

BY NATALIE WAMBUI

In a world where gender equality is an ongoing pursuit, women's voices are crucial. At the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS), the Women of MV Club has been dedicated to fostering empowerment and amplifying women's voices. The club began this past October, and has since ignited important conversations and taken tangible actions to support and uplift women within the community.

Junior Avery Mulvey, whose passion for women's rights motivated her to establish the club, says the aim of the club is to address gender-related issues within the school community. "I knew there was more change that could be done at MVRHS, so I



Members of the Women of MV Club restock the product dispenser in one of the school's bathrooms. AVERY MULVEY

wanted to bring that in and see if other people felt as passionate about certain issues as I did," she said. One of the club's most

notable initiatives has been the proactive restocking of menstrual products in school bathrooms. Recognizing the essential need for these items

and the stigma surrounding menstruation, the members of the club are working to ensure that every student has access to these products without

fear or embarrassment.

"We're in the process of getting new menstrual products in the school bathrooms," Avery said, noting that the club is in the process of obtaining a new product dispenser. "We are working with a company called Flo that does a lot with getting public access to those products, so that next year there is more access in the school," she said.

Students in the Women of MV club meet every Wednesday during Flex. Meeting time is devoted to discussing future plans. Junior Lorraine Barros said, "Each week we talk about a theme of what we should do. In the past, we did a lot on women's sports because that was relevant at the beginning of the year, last month was Women's History Month, and we did a lot on

raising more awareness."

Despite the club's ambitious nature, there are members who have joined the club simply for the sense of community. Junior Annabelle Metell said, "I love that we're a tight-knit group. We may not all come from the same social background, but we're all really close because we all have that one connection which is being a woman."

Junior Arianna Edelman echoed Annabelle. "I love the community it brings because we're all there with girls we don't really know, and we get to know each other by advocating for one another, which makes it all worth it," she said.

Junior Charlotte Watts said, "I really do love it here, and as the club keeps growing and progressing I'm really excited to see the future turn out for us." HSV

Work studies offer valuable experience

BY GRACE COTTON AND PICKLE EVILLE

A few times a week, senior Sam Warren takes the ferry to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution to work with octopuses and cuttlefish. She is one of 37 students enrolled in the work studies program at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS), a program that gives students the opportunity to explore possible career options while simultaneously making money and earning high school credit.

While Sam is focused on aqua care, other students find work in trades such as plumbing, HVAC, and carpentry, among a wide variety of other career options.

"I think it's very helpful to get a young person out

in the real world getting real-world experience," said Sam Hart, MVRHS coordinator of career pathways and special projects. "It gives them confidence, which is very beneficial."

Senior Samantha Caldwell works at the Edgartown School as an assistant in a first-grade class. She is there two and a half days a week preparing papers and book lists, and helping the students in any way she can. For Samantha, the work study program offers her a chance to get ready for college. "I think that a work study should be reflective of what your focus in college will be," she said, "and I think it's a way to gain more experience so you're more prepared for the field you're going into."

Sam Warren would agree.

She hopes her work study in marine biology will help her get ahead later on. "I now understand how to do things that I would otherwise need to learn how to do in the future," she said.

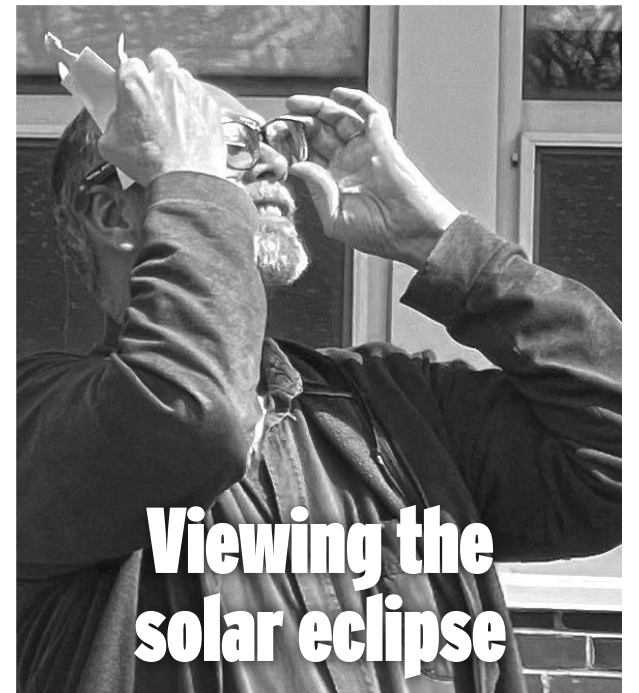
Despite often lacking experience in comparison with co-workers, and requiring more guidance, which can be perceived as burdensome, most students establish great relationships with community members across the Island, no matter their level of expertise.

Junior Seamus McKeon is working at South Mountain Co. as a carpenter. When asked if the work environment turned out to be what he expected, he said, "Not at all. I thought everyone was going to find me annoying and kind of like a burden, [but] they've

treated me like a respected coworker."

Businesses are eager to hire high school students when the opportunities arise. "Island businesses have been very energetic and very vocal about accepting students," said Fran Finnegan, who works alongside Mr. Hart, supervising students in the work study program. "They have been welcoming, and they do their part to mentor the students."

Mr. Hart believes work studies offer students a transformative experience. "I think they're incredibly impactful," he said. "I've also seen participation in the program enhance a student's ability to understand what it is they want to do in life," he said. "And the experience allows them to come back and be better students." HSV



BRADY VOUGHT

School officials distributed glasses during last period on Monday, encouraging students to check out the solar eclipse, which reached maximum coverage at 88.3% at 3:29 pm. Computer technology teacher Chris Connors joined those who hung around campus to enjoy what, for many, might be a once-in-a-lifetime viewing opportunity.

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